

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/749,848

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Applicant(s)

BECKWITH ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Morland Fischer on August 5, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 12, line 7: replace "pushed" by "then moved".

In claim 14, line 4: replace "into contact with" by "towards" and insert -to apply said force thereto- after "element".

Page 6, after claim 16: delete "Please add the following new claim:".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-17 allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

No prior art teach a vibrating push button station (claim 1) comprising:

A frame; a flexible diaphragm on said frame and having opposite outwardly and inwardly facing sides; a pushing surface to which force is applied by a user, said pushing surface located on the outwardly facing side of said flexible diaphragm; a magnet coupled to the inwardly facing side of said flexible diaphragm; an electromagnetic assembly supported by said frame so as to lie below and in

spaced alignment with said magnet; and means to pulse said electromagnetic assembly and thereby generate a corresponding changing magnetic field so as to cause said magnet and said flexible diaphragm coupled thereto to move towards and away from said electromagnetic assembly, the movements of said magnet relative to said electromagnetic assembly being transmitted as vibration to said pushing surface at the outwardly facing side of said flexible diaphragm.

No prior art teach a vibrating push button station (claim 12) comprising:

A push button to which a pushing force is applied by the user; a permanent magnet coupled to said push button; a coil axially aligned with and spaced longitudinally from said permanent magnet to which a current is applied to generate a changing magnetic field and thereby cause the magnet to be pulled towards and then moved away from said coil, the movement of said magnet towards and away from said coil being transmitted to said push button as tactile signal; and a force sensitive element spaced from and aligned with said magnet, said magnet moving towards said force sensitive element to apply a force thereto in response to the pushing force applied by the pedestrian to said push button, said force sensitive element generating an output signal when said permanent magnet moves into contact therewith for causing the current to be applied to said coil.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

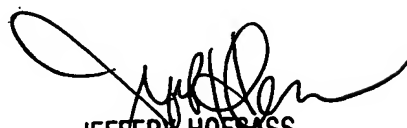
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A. Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lam Pham
August 5, 2005.


JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600